

R.A.F. Squash Rackets Association

SQDN. LDR. G. COMBE has taken over the duties of hon. sec., R.A.F. Squash Rackets Association. His address is: Hon. Secretary, R.A.F. Squash Rackets Association, Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton, Nr. Salisbury, Wilts.

Scottish Sharks

THE first Shark to be rebuilt at the new Dumbarton factory of the Blackburn Company recently underwent successful test flights at Abbotsinch. The second machine is also on test in the hands of F/O. Rolfe, a Blackburn test pilot. No new types are under construction at the Clyde works as yet, but it is planned to transfer flying boat work to Dumbarton.

Moves and Transfers of Bomber Squadrons

THE following moves will take place with effect from the dates stated:—

Unit.	From	To	Date.	Remarks.
No. 102 (Bomber) Squadron.	Honington.	Driffield ...	11.7.38	Transferred to No. 4 (Bomber) Group.
No. 75 (Bomber) Squadron.	Driffield ...	Honington.	11.7.38	Transferred to No. 3 (Bomber) Group.
No. 77 (Bomber) Squadron.	Honington.	Driffield ...	25.7.38	Transferred to No. 4 (Bomber) Group.
No. 215 (Bomber) Squadron.	Driffield ...	Honington.	25.7.38	Transferred to No. 3 (Bomber) Group.

Central Flying School Categories

THE undermentioned reserve officers have recently been tested at the Central Flying School, and are awarded the following categories:—Category A.1: F/O. W. L. B. Palmer. Category A.2: Flt. Lts. N. J. Capper, A. D. Bennett, H. A. de S. Barrow, and H. L. McCulloch. Category B: Flt. Lt. L. T. G. Barber.

Merlins III and IV

IN succession to the Merlin's I and II at present in service, the Rolls-Royce Merlin III is about to be introduced. In general construction and power output this engine resembles the Merlin II, but embodies a standardised airscrew shaft suitable to take De Havilland or Rotol v.p. airscrews. So far, the v.p. Merlins in service have been equipped with D.H. airscrews only. Another modification on the new engine is the provision of a dual drive for accessories at the front end.

For installation in the Armstrong-Whitworth Whitley IV bomber, the Merlin IV has been developed. Other Whitley models, namely I, II and III, are powered with fourteen-cylinder Armstrong-Siddeley Tiger VIII or IX radial engines. The Tiger VIII in the Whitley II and III has a two-speed supercharger and gives a maximum of 780 h.p. at 14,250ft.

Royal Air Force Gazette

General Duties Branch

The following Flying Officers are promoted to Flight Lieutenant on the dates stated:—R. G. Musson (May 7); H. M. Styles, H. D. Fraser, D. H. Lee (June 15); J. C. Taylor (June 22).

The following Flying Officers are granted the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant on the dates stated:—R. M. Fenwick-Wilson (March 24); L. W. Saben (May 20); R. W. Hase (May 25).

Wing Cdr. T. F. W. Thompson, D.F.C., is placed on the retired list at his own request (June 30); Sqdn. Ldr. N. W. A. Cullum is transferred to the Reserve, Class A (July 6).

Equipment Branch

Group Capt. F. A. Baldwin is placed on the retired list at his own request (July 1).

Royal Air Force Reserve

General Duties Branch

Flt. Lt. J. R. S. Agar is transferred from Class A to Class C

Royal Air Force Appointments

General Duties Branch

Wing Commanders.—P. F. Fullard, D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., to H.Q., Maintenance Command, London; for Air Staff duties, 20.6.38. C. Findlay, D.F.C., A.F.C., to R.A.F. Station, Wyton; to command, 20.6.38. H. A. Hamersley, M.C., to U.L.A.S.; to command, 30.6.38.

Squadron Leaders.—J. H. McN. Campbell, to H.Q., No. 26 (T.) Group, Hendon; for Navigation duties, 30.5.38. P. L. P. Marett, to No. 37 (B.) Sqn., Feltwell, for flying duties, 18.6.38. C. H. Turner, to R.A.F. Station, Halton; for flying duties, 18.6.38. C. F. Sealy, to Special Duty List; whilst employed with the Superintendent of Design, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, 23.5.38. A. B. Woodhall, to Directorate of Staff Duties, Air Ministry, 27.6.38. N. A. P. Pritchett, to Deputy Directorate of Organisation, Air Ministry, 20.6.38. J. Cox, to H.Q., R.A.F., Iraq, Habbaniya; for Personnel Staff duties, 1.6.38. G. D. Emms, to No. 79 (F.) Sqn., Biggin Hill; to command, 20.6.38. F. W. Stannard, to H.Q., Bomber Command, Uxbridge; for Air Staff duties, 16.6.38.

Flight Lieutenants.—G. W. Montagu, to No. 2 A.-A.C. Unit, Le-on-Solent, 13.6.38. W. Gill, to Aircraft Depot, Habbaniya, Iraq, 28.5.38. R. V. McIntyre, to No. 84 (B.) Sqn., Shaibah, Iraq, 25.5.38. T. U. C. Shirley, to H.Q., R.A.F., Far East, Singapore, 11.6.38.

Owing to the greatly increased length of these lists as a result of R.A.F. expansion, ranks are confined to those of Flight Lieutenant and above.

No detailed information has been released about the supercharging or power figures of the Merlin IV, but output and construction are in general the same as those of the Merlin III, including the modifications mentioned above. One important difference exists, however: where, as hitherto, Merlin engines in service have been ethylene-glycol-cooled, the Merlin IV is cooled by water under pressure. This has the effect of raising the boiling point of the water well above 100° C. and avoids the difficulties of draining and supply of glycol. No doubt troubles had to be overcome in connection with joints in the pressure water system.

The already creditable performance of the Whitley is considerably improved with 1,000-h.p., water-cooled, in-line engines.

R.A.F. Recruiting Returns

RESULTS for the first two weeks of the R.A.F. recruiting campaign for 31,000 pilots, observers, airmen and boys, have been announced by the Air Ministry.

The total number of inquiries during the first week was 6,970, made up as follows:—Airmen, 4,837; boys, 1,044; pilots, 843; observers, 255. Of the 4,837 airmen, 1,731 have applied for admission and 628 have been drafted to the R.A.F. Reception Depot, West Drayton. Applications for pilots total 158 and for observers 53. The total number of inquiries during the second week was 6,015, made up as follows:—Airmen, 4,447; boys, 802; pilots, 639; observers, 127. Of the 4,447 airmen, 1,498 have applied for admission and 618 have been drafted to the West Drayton Depot. Applications for pilots total 113 and for observers 34. Returns from the eleven main offices for the first two weeks are as follows:—

Recruiting Office.	Total Enquiries.		Total Application Men.
	Men.	Boys.	
Belfast	215	68	65
London	1,919	424	408
Newcastle	169	50	89
Bristol	165	26	67
Liverpool	368	79	144
Glasgow	470	99	204
Plymouth	154	21	52
Birmingham	472	83	127
Manchester	323	73	162
Leeds	390	76	158
Cardiff	181	45	60
Belfast	168	40	46
London	1,854	362	493
Newcastle	176	44	68
Bristol	137	24	50
Liverpool	288	45	121
Glasgow	398	63	176
Plymouth	135	23	54
Birmingham	481	65	124
Manchester	293	64	156
Leeds	341	44	152
Cardiff	176	28	58

(July 2); Flt. Lt. H. F. Game, A.F.C., relinquishes his commission on completion of service (June 1).

Equipment Branch

W. B. J. Humphrey is granted a commission as Flt. Lt. in Class C (February 16).

Auxiliary Air Force

General Duties Branch

No. 603 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) (BOMBER) SQUADRON.—F/O. P. Gifford is promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (April 1).

Equipment Branch

Major E. J. Moorhead (R.A., Retd.) is granted a commission as Flight Lieutenant (May 16).

W. H. Kyle, to No. 3 F.T.S., South Cerney, 25.6.38. D. M. Lynch-Staunton, to R.A.F. College, Cranwell, 20.6.38. J. G. Cardale, to School of Air Navigation, Manston, 19.6.38. J. J. A. Sutton, to H.Q., No. 4 (B.) Group, Linton-upon-Ouse, 13.6.38.

Equipment Branch

Wing Commander.—N. R. Fuller, to H.Q., Coastal Command, Le-on-Solent; for Equipment Staff duties, 28.5.38.

Squadron Leader.—L. V. Hirst, to H.Q., Bomber Command, Uxbridge; for Equipment Staff duties, 14.6.38.

Flight Lieutenant.—J. R. Fraser, to R.A.F. Station, Debden, 30.5.38. W. A. Lee, to Directorate of Equipment, Air Ministry, 16.6.38.

Medical Branch

Squadron Leader.—A. L. St. A. McClosky, to R.A.F. Station, Abingdon; for duty as M.O., 27.6.38.

Flight Lieutenants.—I. K. Mackenzie, to R.A.F. Station, Helwan, Egypt, 11.5.38. J. H. Preston, to R.A.F. Station, Ismailia, Egypt, 10.5.38. C. C. Barker, to R.A.F. Station, Habbaniya, Iraq, 27.5.38. F. L. Whitehead, to H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, Cairo, Egypt, 1.6.38. J. R. Cellars, to No. 4 F.T.S., Abu Sueir, Egypt, 1.6.38.